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CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Colon, Republic of Panama, February 24, 1904.

SIR: I have to inform you that from this date all vessels sailing from Colon, Republic of Panama, for ports or places in the United States or United States colonies will be inspected by a medical officer of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service before sailing and granting a bill of health. This supervision of vessels sailing to United States ports is provided by United States quarantine law, enacted February 15, 1893.

This inspection of crew and passengers on the ships specified will be made at such hours as the company request, during the hours of daylight, and will be carried out expeditiously in order not to unnecessarily delay the sailing of the vessel. This will afford a protection to the vessel as well as to the ports of the United States by preventing the departure of those sick with quarantinable diseases.

The data for bill of health must be furnished this office as heretofore, and this document will be delivered on board by the doctor after his inspection has been completed.

Respectfully yours,

OSCAR MALMROS, *United States Consul.*

Inspection of vessels during the week ended February 27, 1904.

American steamship *Yucatan*, for New York, 58 crew and 61 passengers, on February 23; British steamship *William Cliff*, for New Orleans, via Kingston and Mexican ports, 46 crew and 29 passengers, February 25; U. S. cruiser *Dixie*, under sealed orders, 250 crew and 400 marines, February 25; British schooner *Evadne*, for Biloxi, Miss., crew of 8 and no passengers, February 25, 1904.

Mortality during the months of January and February, 1904.

Forty-two deaths from all causes occurred in Colon, Republic of Panama, during the month of February, 1904. Estimating the population of the town as 6,000, the month's mortality would give an annual death rate of 84 per thousand. The number of deaths during this period was above the average, which is 26 to 28 per month, and as there was also an abnormally high death rate in the month of January immediately preceding, and since the diagnosis given in nearly all cases is that of pernicious and malarial fever I consider that this high mortality should be regarded with suspicion, and possibly some cases of yellow fever exist without being reported.

An effort is now being made to acquire more accurate data relative to the deaths that have occurred during the past two months in order to ascertain if those recently arrived are suffering more severely than the native population. This will form a separate report.

The deaths by weeks during the month were as follows: Week ended February 7, 15 deaths; week ended February 14, 10 deaths; week ended February 21, 8 deaths; week ended February 28, 9 deaths; total, 42.

Report from city of Panama—Inspection of vessels—Mortality statistics.

Assistant Surgeon Pierce reports, February 29, as follows:

During the week ended February 28 only one vessel, the steamship *Colon*, cleared for an American port, San Francisco, having on board 74 crew and 14 passengers, all well.

No quarantinable disease was reported during the week. There were 19 deaths from all causes, 7 from fevers and 6 from tuberculosis, the remaining 6 deaths being from the following causes: Beriberi, 1; colic, 1; asphyxia, 1; killed by train, 1; old age, 1, and spleen complication, 1.